



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 9

Meeting Date: 3.28.08

Meeting Location: Hendricks County Department of Child Services
6781 E. US Hwy. 36 Suite #200
Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Kandi Killin - Director, Boone County GAL/CASA, Steve Vaughn - Director, Montgomery County DCS, Jana Minks – Supervisor, Montgomery County DCS, Tim Miller - Director, Morgan County DCS, Harmony Gist - Morgan County DCS, and Char Burkett-Sims - DCS , Region 9 Regional Manager

Guests Present:

Kamilla Aeschliman - Director, Boone County DCS, Andrea Goodwin - Director, Hendricks County DCS, Mark Fairchild - Community Partners for Child Safety, Lisa Plewa - Children's Bureau, Lisa Peck - FAKT, Children's Bureau, David Eilar – Wernle Children's Home, Inc., Tony Fingerle, - Lifeline Youth and Family Services, Clint Newlin - MSW Intern, Hendricks County DCS

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Practice Reform Indicators:

Placement Type:

The goal for DCS in this area is to increase the safety of the home to allow the child to remain in the home. Where this is not possible, the goal is to place the child with a relative with whom the child is familiar.

Region 9 Averages for February 2008 is as follows:

Own Home: 32.17%

Relative: 19.42.03%

Foster Care: 33.04%

Residential: 8.41%

Locally Placed Chins average for Region 9 is at 61.54 %.

Length of Stay in Out of Home Care:

The goal of this indicator is to reduce the time a child is placed out of home. The data for this indicator is currently measured by utilizing the median placement time in care.

The average length of stay in out of home placement for Region 9 is 450 days. Region 9 is doing better in comparison to the statewide average of 600 + days in out of home placement.

Absence of Repeat Maltreatment:

The average rate for Region 9 for the Absence of Maltreatment is 92%.

The Region 9 target for this measure is 93% over a 13 month period.

Title IV-B Funding Proposals-**Request from Morgan County:**

Morgan County has requested to transfer \$3, 824.00 from Cummins Mental Health and \$6,000.00 from Children's Bureau to McConn and Associates. McConn and Associates is Morgan County's primary home based provider. This transfer of funds from Children's Bureau may impact other counties. The decision of this transfer is pending the discussion at the next IV-B meeting on where we are in Region 9 in our expenditures to date and reviewing the utilization report.

IV-B Funding for Service Providers:

IV-B coordinators will soon have a list of providers and costs. A time needs to be established to determine recommendations. This process is critical in finding the services that we need. It was decided that the county directors will make provisional decisions for their counties. Council members were presented with the option to be involved in this process. There were no volunteers. Last years allocations will be reviewed as a starting point. Members that were absent from the meeting with also be informed of their opportunity to be involved in this process as well.

Funding Child Abuse Awareness:

All members present agreed on setting aside funds from the Child Welfare Services Account to be used toward activities, materials, etc. for Child Abuse Awareness. This was agreed upon as an ongoing decision that we would not have to bring to the table each time the funds are needed.

HEA 1001:

Each Regional Services council shall develop a biennial regional services strategic plan that is tailored to provide services targeted to the individual needs of children that are identified by DCS. This will include a plan to evaluate local child welfare services needs and a determination of appropriate delivery mechanisms. All funding will go through the state and there will be no county funds. By January 1st funding will be contingent upon the Strategic Plan.

Regional Services Council members will consist of the Regional Manager, 3 members from juvenile court, 3 local county directors, 2 family case managers, 2 family case manager supervisors, 1 GAL/CASA, 1 prosecuting attorney, and 1 child (at least 16 years old, but not older than 25 that has been or is involved in services through DCS and resides within the region. The child cannot serve in a voting capacity.)

The director shall appoint the members with the exception of judges, judicial officers, and prosecuting attorneys. A member can appoint designees to attend the meetings and serve in a voting capacity on their behalf if it is specified in writing. The majority of the voting members serve as a quorum. The Regional Services council will meet at least on a quarterly basis. The strategic plan will be submitted to the director no later than February 2nd of each even-numbered year. The next Regional Strategic plan will be due in 2010. The Strategic Plan will be replacing Early Intervention Plans.

General Discussions:

Community Partners for Child Safety:

Mark Fairchild reports that the referrals are already coming in strong in the first quarter. They have already received 130 referrals which beats the total of 13 referrals at this time last year. The number one sources of referrals are coming from DCS, schools, and self referrals. Since they have hired 2 additional liaisons, the caseloads have become more reasonable. Mark has received 6 requests for Mental Health allocations. Mark has already received some resumes for the parent support coordinator and they are partnering with other agencies.

The Hendricks County Kids Fair is this weekend and they are working on the community resource guide for Morgan County.

The steering committee will meet quarterly. The next meeting is April 23rd at Hendricks County Power Cooperative.

Children's Bureau – FAKT:

Lisa Peck reports that there were a lot of cancellations of the classes because there were not enough people to attend. A waiver was approved that if they don't reach the criteria of at least 7 people, they can write a letter to get it approved.

They have 85 potential Kinship placements from training in 2007. They are hoping to increase this number in 2008. They had the last training in March at the Police Post in Putnam County which was their biggest turnout.

There has been some challenge with CPR classes with only 2-3 people at a time. People are going to a local location to do their CPR classes. Each county needs to talk to their FAKT contact person to see if there are things that we can improve as far as recruitment, using brochures any time the chance presents itself, and if our the referral process is working in the county.

Children's Bureau – Substance Abuse Assessments:

Lisa Plewa reports that they would like to increase substance abuse assessments. There have been issues with using the saliva swabs. If there are any issues let Lisa know. On May 7th, 2008 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM there will be a Town Hall Meeting at Rock and Rollers (Skating Rink in Avon). The topic will be prescription drugs. There will be raffles and other activities. Kids are welcome and can skate free.

Wernle Children's Home:

David Eilar gave an update on their new program. They now have the Token Economy Incentive Program as part of their strength based therapy. The tokens are rewards and it is motivating the kids to work the program. Their Strength based program is working and they continue to have more successful discharges.

Lifeline Youth and Family Services:

Tony Fingerle reports that this agency is celebrating their 40th anniversary. They are under construction of an all new campus and school. There will an Open House in August 2008.

Books for Youth DCS/Colts:

This project is going very well. Char is working with Stacy Lozier in planning a kick off event. Jana Minks from Montgomery County and Kamilla Aeschliman from Boone County will be contacting the book publishers in their counties. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time to help with this project.

Announcement:

Barb South, Director in Putnam County, is leaving DCS to pursue a new job. Her last day will be April 4th, 2008. Best Wishes to Barb.

Next Meeting Date: 4.25.08

Time: 9:00 PM

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Meeting concluded at 10:03 AM